

§ 80.321

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§ 80.321 Acknowledgement of receipt of distress message.

(a) Stations of the maritime mobile service which receive a distress message from a mobile station which is beyond any possible doubt in their vicinity must immediately acknowledge receipt. However, in areas where reliable communication with one or more coast stations is practicable, ship stations may defer this acknowledgement for a short interval so that a coast station may acknowledge receipt.

(b) Stations of the maritime mobile service which receive a distress message from a mobile station which is beyond any possible doubt is not in their vicinity, must allow a short interval of time to elapse before acknowledging receipt of the message in order to permit stations nearer to the mobile station in distress to acknowledge receipt without interference.

§ 80.322 Form of acknowledgement.

(a) The acknowledgement of receipt of a radiotelegraph distress message is transmitted in the following form:

- (1) The distress signal SOS;
- (2) The call sign of the station sending the distress message, sent three times;
- (3) The word DE;
- (4) The call sign of the station acknowledging receipt, sent three times;
- (5) The group RRR;
- (6) The message signal SOS.

(b) The acknowledgement of receipt of a radiotelephone distress message is transmitted in the following form:

- (1) The distress signal MAYDAY;
- (2) The call sign or other identification of the station sending the distress message, spoken three times;
- (3) The words THIS IS;
- (4) The call sign or other identification of the station acknowledging receipt, spoken three times;
- (5) The word RECEIVED;
- (6) The distress signal MAYDAY.

§ 80.323 Information furnished by an acknowledging station.

(a) Every mobile station which acknowledges receipt of a distress message must on the order of the master or person responsible for the ship, aircraft, or other vehicle carrying such mobile station, transmit as soon as

possible the following information in the order shown:

- (1) Its identifier;
- (2) Its position;
- (3) The speed at which it is proceeding towards, and the approximate time it will take to reach the mobile station in distress.

(b) Before sending this message, the station must ensure that it will not interfere with the emissions of other stations better situated to render immediate assistance to the station in distress.

§ 80.324 Transmission of distress message by station not itself in distress.

(a) A mobile station or a land station which learns that a mobile station is in distress must transmit a distress message in any of the following cases:

- (1) When the station in distress cannot transmit the distress message.
- (2) When the master or person responsible for the ship, aircraft, or other vehicle not in distress, or for the land station, believes that further help is necessary.
- (3) When, although not in a position to assist, it has heard a distress message which has not been acknowledged.

When a mobile station transmits such a distress message, it must notify the authorities who may be able to assist.

(b) Transmission must be made on the international distress frequencies or on any other available frequency on which attention might be attracted.

(c) Transmission of the distress message must always be preceded by the call indicated below, which must itself be preceded whenever possible by the radiotelegraph or radiotelephone alarm signal. This call consists of:

- (1) When radiotelegraphy is used:
 - (i) The signal DDD SOS SOS SOS DDD;
 - (ii) The word DE;
 - (iii) The call sign of the transmitting station, sent three times.
- (2) When radiotelephony is used:
 - (i) The signal MAYDAY RELAY, spoken three times;
 - (ii) The words THIS IS;
 - (iii) The call sign or other identification of the transmitting station, spoken three times.